

Happy New Year,

I hope you have managed to recharge the batteries and are ready for 2020, I have already received many visit forms and can see there is a lot going on this year. There are a couple of updates to brief you on, also some dates for the calendar.

Geopolitical Threat Assessment

All visits carry a certain level of risk, which on most occasions is balanced by the benefits and the learning acquired through the experience. Some places being visited have an increased level of risk attached to geopolitical threats and therefore it is important that these are considered and plans in place. This includes the environment, cultural impact, civil disturbances, serious health problems, risk of violent crimes such as kidnaps, terrorism and natural disasters. The geopolitical threat fluctuates so it is important to monitor this throughout all stages of planning.

ESCC has updated the Offsite Visit policy to include a requirement for a geopolitical threat assessment to be completed where there is a significant risk, we can then discuss the findings and the proposed plans. Please ensure you read and circulate the updated policy with your visit leaders. The template is under the document section of Exeant.

Feedback/Evaluation

I cannot stress enough how important it is to evaluate visits, this evidences the impact the visit has had and therefore the value in repeating the visit in the future. It will also highlight any minor or major changes that need to occur in the future when planning the same or similar trips.

For the more challenging overseas visits it is a requirement that the visit leader or EVC feedback to me within two weeks of the visit returning to share any learning, successes or concerns that occurred. This will help with the advice given for all future visits.

I would suggest the visit leader keeps a daily diary on a residential so that they can keep a record of anything that has worked well or any concerns, near misses or incidents that have occurred at the time rather than trying to recall this information weeks after the visit.

If you have any problems/ concerns with providers or venues, please do let me know at the time or on your return as this information is useful when I am advising others.

Training

Central training courses have been booked in and will continue to take place at Bushy Wood Scout Camp. The dates below will be advertised shortly by the training team. Please do circulate with colleagues. If you would like group or all staff training on an inset day or as a twilight session, please contact me I we can arrange a date and time that suits.

19th May - Educational Visits Coordinator Training (EVC)

21st May – EVC Update Training

22nd May – Visit Leader Training

Pool Lifesaving

Last year ESCC and Freedom Leisure moved the pool lifesaving courses to the nationally recognised courses. Please ensure you are looking at the brochure attached, also located under the PE and Sport page of Czone. (could you add a link?)

As these courses are now externally assessed, it requires a longer lead time to book, so please do get dates in asap, I would suggest dates for 2021 are submitted soon.

Buzz Active

As many of you know Buzz Active has expanded into the realms of land-based activities at Bushy Wood Scout Camp and can offer a variety of activities, activity days and also residential programmes. Activities include; team building, fire lighting, crate challenge, climbing, archery and rifles.

Across the water sport sites in Eastbourne and the Cuckmere Haven, groups can complete RYA sailing courses and British Canoe Paddle sports courses. All our activities can be linked to the curriculum and they are a great way to develop character, identify new talents and interests whilst improving physical and mental health.

Any enquiries please contact Buzz Active on: 01323 417023 or info@buzzactive.org.uk

Useful Links

Below are a number of links to websites that I have found useful in providing resources or advice for leading outdoor learning. There are also a number of national initiatives to get your school involved in. Please do share with colleagues so that they can start planning.

Learning Outside the classroom day- 21st May 2020 <https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk/>

Schools Big Birdwatch 2020 Between January and March <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/#5xFWwzidWkR5rZ11.99>

Resources

<https://www.sustainablelearning.com>

<https://www.mcsuk.org/coolseas/>

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources>

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/>

<https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award>

<https://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/learning/organisations/our-south-downs-network/>

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/30-days-wild>